

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 101**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 106**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 101—Relative to the Los Angeles River revitalization.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 7, 2012.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SCR 101, Pavley. Los Angeles River revitalization.

This measure would declare that the Legislature honors and commends the commitment, energy, vision, and leadership demonstrated by local, regional, state, and federal government agencies, as well as nonprofit and civic groups, organizations, and associations, in the creation of parks and the restoration of natural habitats along the Los Angeles River and its San Fernando Valley tributaries.

WHEREAS, The history of the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles and the surrounding environs is intimately tied to the Los Angeles River, as the river provided fresh water to the Tongva and Tataviam living near it for thousands of years, and to the Spanish who established the city's earliest settlements next to the river for the same reason; and

WHEREAS, The San Fernando Valley is surrounded by the Santa Monica Mountains, the Santa Susana Mountains, the San Gabriel Mountains, the Simi Hills, and the Verdugo Hills; and

WHEREAS, The runoff from these mountains flows through the many miles of the Los Angeles River's tributaries in the San Fernando Valley, including the Tujunga, Pacoima, and Verdugo Washes, and the Arroyo Seco; and

WHEREAS, The headwaters of the Los Angeles River are in Canoga Park at the confluence of Bell Creek and the Arroyo Calabasas, and the river then flows east through the San Fernando Valley to the Glendale Narrows as it flows toward the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous significant local, state, and federal parks, protected wildlife habitat and mountain wilderness areas, bikeways, trails, and other open space that connect to or are near the Los Angeles River and its major tributaries throughout the San Fernando Valley, including the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the Rim of the Valley corridor and trail system, the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, and the Tujunga Wash Greenway; and

WHEREAS, Strong flooding, particularly in 1914, 1934, and 1938, necessitated the creation of the Los Angeles Flood Control District in 1915,

and led to its ongoing partnership with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to effectively manage and control the river's flood waters; and

WHEREAS, Encasing the Los Angeles River in concrete for flood protection permitted dense urbanization of surrounding areas, but caused the river to be effectively cut off from surrounding communities and destroyed large areas of native riparian and adjacent habitat; and

WHEREAS, Pioneering work by numerous public agencies, community and environmental organizations, and many individuals has envisioned a different future for the Los Angeles River, and this work has resulted in the County of Los Angeles' Los Angeles River Master Plan in 1996 and the City of Los Angeles' Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan in 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Obama administration has made a priority of the Los Angeles River through its 2011 designation of the river as the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region IX project for the Urban Water Federal Partnership, and its 2012 designation as part of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative; and

WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency's July 2010 designation of the Los Angeles River as a "traditional navigable water" under the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq.) emphasizes the river's potential to provide recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The revitalization plans call for reestablishing the Los Angeles River as a focal point for the over nine million people living in, as well as visitors to, the surrounding communities, with a continuous greenway and trail system forming a vital link between people, neighborhoods, cities, and the region; and

WHEREAS, The revitalization plans call for enhancing multibenefit flood control and improving water quality in the Los Angeles River through restoring a functional, connected ecosystem with safe public access to the river and through providing open space, recreational opportunities, and artistic, cultural, educational, and environmental features; and

WHEREAS, A revitalized Los Angeles River will foster civic pride, promote social justice, generate economic activity and tourism, and improve the quality of life in the communities surrounding the river; and

WHEREAS, Revitalization of the Los Angeles River has begun in the San Fernando Valley, through the leadership of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and others, with a diverse array of parks and natural habitat restoration along the river, as well as its tributaries, and these areas provide important recreational opportunities, water quality improvements, and other environmental enhancements and a sense of community along the river; and

WHEREAS, Creating and fostering linkages between the existing and planned parks, open space, habitat, trails, and greenways along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries in the San Fernando Valley is necessary to achieve the full revitalization of the river and communities along its length, and will require coordination and cooperation between communities, government agencies, and the private sector; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature honors and commends the commitment, energy, vision, and leadership demonstrated by local, regional, state, and federal governments, and government agencies, as well as nonprofit and civic groups, organizations, and associations, in the creation of parks and the restoration of natural habitats along the Los Angeles River and its San Fernando Valley tributaries; and be it further

*Resolved,* That revitalization of the Los Angeles River will create public access to the river's trails and greenways and improve mobility to the residents and communities of, and visitors to, the San Fernando Valley and this multibenefit solution will simultaneously improve flood control and water quality; and be it further

*Resolved,* That a connected San Fernando Valley network of parks, mountain wilderness areas, bikeways, trails, habitat, and open space is achievable with linkages along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries; and be it further

*Resolved,* That a priority should be placed on the integration, coordination, and physical connectivity between Los Angeles River revitalization projects and existing features, including local, state, and federal trails, paths, parks, and open space, in order to achieve the maximum ecological, recreational, cultural, nonmotorized transportation, and educational opportunities possible in order to improve the quality of life and the valley communities to the greatest extent possible; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.